

Matter 11

Summary

No Philosopher's Stone

Account by:	Mike Riaznik, 40. Physicist.
Source:	COLLIDERNETWORK list server.
Location:	Upton, United States.
Event:	25 Jan 2024.
Report:	29 May 2024.

Report

COLLIDERNETWORK collidernetwork-bounces@lists.ucl.ac.uk on behalf of Mike Riaznik MRiaznik @bnl.gov

[COLLIDERNETWORK] Strange occurrences.

To: COLLIDERNETWORK@lists.ucl.ac.uk

Hi Melanie, I got a weird phenomenon for you.

January 25th, the RHIC was fired up to whack some more gold ions together. Everything went well, no issues, the team liked the data that spewed out. Just another day at the office.

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Thinking back on it, I did notice something odd at the time, like a tug at my jacket pocket. I absently put my hand in it to check, but feeling around there was nothing there that shouldn't have been.

Only later, when I went to the machine for a can of soda, did I discover my good fortune. I pulled a handful of quarters from my pocket and they weren't quarters. Well, they *were* quarters, but they were made of gold. Solid gold, 24 karat: each and every one of them.

Volume of a quarter: 0.8089cm^3

Mass of 1cm^3 of gold: 19.320g

Mass of each golden quarter: 16.628g

Jan 25th LBMA closing price: \$2023.75/oz

1 troy ounce: 31.1035g

Price of gold per gram: \$65.065

Value of 16.628g of gold: \$1081.90

So each of my 25¢ coins had increased in value by \$1081.65, and I had a dozen of them.

OK, so I missed out on my soda, but I wasn't too upset by that. I was more confused by how this had happened, but the coins were the real deal. No idea how they got in my pocket, nobody admitted to either sleight of hand or a sudden inheritance. I don't even know where someone could get golden quarters made, all with different dates on them.

Besides, I had a few other coins mixed in with them, but they weren't affected. Someone took out all my quarters, but not my other coins, then put back golden ones – all without my noticing? I don't think so. Of course, I don't think they transmuted into gold of their own accord, either. Sure as Hell something freaky had occurred, but I wasn't about to complain.

I've been walking around for four months now with six rolls of quarters in my pockets. Hasn't happened again, as evidenced by the fact I haven't retired.

Nobody has a clue what went on. All I can say for sure is that no philosopher's stone was involved.

Weird enough for you?

Mike

Notes

At the 15th International Particle Accelerator Conference in Nashville, 19-24 May 2024, Mike Riaznik presented everyone who attended his presentation with a free Faygo diet vanilla creme soda.

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Matter 12

Summary

Butterflies

Account by:	Girardo Sasso, 35. Physicist.
Source:	COLLIDERNETWORK list server.
Location:	Frascati, Italy.
Event:	12 Mar 2024.
Report:	30 May 2024.

Report

COLLIDERNETWORK collidernetwork-bounces@lists.ucl.ac.uk on behalf of Girardo Sasso girardo.sasso@inf.infn.it

[COLLIDERNETWORK] Strange occurrences.

To: COLLIDERNETWORK@lists.ucl.ac.uk

Melanie:

I was reminded by Dr Tsuzuki's tale of the spiders of something odd that happened in Frascati, where DAFNE has been colliding electrons and positrons for a quarter of a century. Fortunately, what

happened here was not as grisly as the fate that befell Dr Tsuzuki's friend, nor can it truly be described as an event, but it is perplexing nevertheless.

In essence, what took place was that three enormous butterflies new to science were discovered dead in the Tuscolo Archaeological Cultural Park. It is not known where they came from, but so large were their wingspans – some 25cm – that they could not have survived for long when exposed to non-tropical conditions.

There are only two known species of butterfly with a larger wingspan than 25cm: the Goliath Birdwing and Queen Alexandra's Birdwing, both native to the island of New Guinea. The three new butterflies were therefore the cause of great excitement among entomologists. While of similar size to each other and boasting metallic-looking scales, the three butterflies exhibited very different markings; a preliminary DNA analysis soon determined them to be separate species, rather than different varieties of the same species.

Although some effort was made to ascertain the origin of the butterflies, no progress was made and the mystery remains.

I apologise for the lack of drama in this story, but it does seem to be the kind of phenomenon that may

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be of interest to you, especially when taken in conjunction with Dr Tsuzuki's experience in Japan.

Girardo

Notes

None.

Matter 13

Summary

The April 1st Ghost

Account by:	Siri Montblanc, 34. Reporter.
Source:	<i>The Northern Echo</i> .
Location:	Harrogate, Yorkshire, England.
Event:	1 Apr 2024.
Report:	4 Apr 2023.

Report

"It was a ghost!" Pedestrians pranked in Royal Parade

4th April 2023

YORK AND HARROGATE



By Siri Montblanc

North Yorkshire Reporter

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An elderly woman, trapped inside a bookshop, vanished when help arrived – on April Fool's Day.

On Easter Monday, 1st April, pedestrians passing by the Fine and Rare Books shop on Royal Parade were surprised to see an elderly lady apparently trapped inside.

"We noticed her at around eight o'clock", said Kellie Kettlewell, 21, a trainee nurse. "She seemed a little frustrated, but not in any distress."

Eric Mothersdale, 66, agrees. "I saw her at about a quarter to nine. She was thumbing through a first-edition Agatha Christie."

"I knocked on the window to check she was OK, but she just gave me a smile and a resigned shrug before getting back to her book."

"To be honest, she looked as if she was out of an Agatha Christie novel herself, so I thought it was probably a publicity stunt or something."

By nine fifteen, a small crowd had gathered outside the store to discuss how to help the elderly lady escape her apparent predicament.

"She had striking blue eyes", said Ravi Monash, 35, a taxi-driver from Pontefract. "She was very well-

dressed, too, at least she would have been if this was the 1930s."

"The consensus was that she wouldn't have to wait much longer because the shop was due to open at ten, but you never know with bank holidays, do you?"

Asked why she couldn't let herself out, Mr Monash explained. "The premises looked very secure to me. I expect it's because small, expensive items such as books are of great interest to thieves."

Several people were attempting to communicate with the elderly lady using sign language when, at around a quarter to ten, she suddenly vanished.

"It wasn't that she went into a back room or anything", said Ms Kettlewell, who had returned to check on her. "She simply disappeared, right before our eyes!"

"We thought it was a ghost!", she added. "My friend Becky felt quite faint for as second or two afterwards."

"It must have been a magic trick", declared Georgia Cox, 64. "She certainly looked real, but when she disappeared like that I thought, aye aye, someone's having fun on April Fool's day."

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The store manager arrived a few minutes later.

"He denied all knowledge of any prank", said Mrs Cox, "but then, he would, wouldn't he?"

Ms Kettlewell added, "He said the burglar alarm hadn't gone off, as if that was the end of the matter. It wouldn't have done if it was a ghost, though, would it?"

"Or if it hadn't been turned on in the first place", suggested Mrs Cox.

In a brief statement, Fine and Rare Books stressed that their state-of-the-art burglar alarm system had been activate and fully operational at the time of the incident and there was absolutely no evidence whatsoever that anyone had been locked in overnight.

A bemused member of staff wondered out loud if perhaps the passers-by had perpetrated an April Fool's day hoax on the bookshop, rather than the opposite as they had claimed.

Notes

This story did not appear in the print version of the newspaper.

[Update 4 Jun 2024]

This page now returns a 404 error.

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Matter 14

Summary

Two Books

Account by:	Matt O'Donald, 34. Physicist.
Source:	COLLIDERNETWORK list server.
Location:	Upton, United States.
Event:	2 Oct 2023, 28 Mar 2024.
Report:	28 May 2024.

Report

COLLIDERNETWORK collidernetwork-bounces@lists.ucl.ac.uk on behalf of Matt O'Donald
MODonald@bnl.gov

[COLLIDERNETWORK] Strange occurrences.

To: COLLIDERNETWORK@lists.ucl.ac.uk

On 27 May 2024, 14:33, Melanie Scott <melanie@dheghom.com> wrote:

| have you noticed any inexplicable, weird
| occurrences at or near your place of work

recently, say since the beginning of October last year?

Hey Melanie, I have two such weird occurrences for your collection, both involving books.

#1 October 2nd, I went to pick up my son from kindergarten and one of the other parents was showing around a picture book she had. It was a children's dictionary, quite an old one – it looked as if it had been in the family for years. You know the kind: A is for Apple (picture of an apple); B is for Ball (picture of a ball); C is for Cat (picture of a cat) – all the way to the regulation Z is for Zebra (picture of a zebra).

That's how it used to look, anyway. It didn't look like that now. The words inside (not on the cover) had been replaced by strange symbols – vertical and horizontal lines, with occasional dots. The owner was confused and concerned, because when her son had looked at the book that very morning it had been fine. She wanted to know if any of us knew what the symbols meant.

I'd never seen anything like them before, but they looked like some kind of cipher. It was hard to tell where one started and the next ended, but I think there were 6 symbols accompanying apple and 4 accompanying ball. None of them doubled up, either. It wasn't a simple substitution code.

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The owner decided to leave it a few days to see if it turned back, then if not she'd hand it in to the police so they could pass it on to the appropriate agency so they could figure out what had gone on. I asked her about it a week later and she said that this is what she had indeed done. She'd bought a replacement book for her son off of eBay; as far as I know, that one hasn't suffered from the same problem as the original (yet).

#2 March 28th, I opened my copy of Don Norman's *The Design of Everyday Things*, 3rd edition, to look up a line I wanted to quote. Same deal with the cover, it looked just like it used to; inside, well it didn't. The typesetting was the same, the layout was the same, but the words weren't the same – they were from other books. Every interior page was affected, including the front matter. The page numbers were in sequence, but they were the wrong pages.

Some of the text I recognised because it was from books on the same shelf, or from books I'd read – Dickens, for example – but most were ones I didn't know. Some were pictorial – there was a Spider-Man comic – and others weren't even in English. It was as if some prankster had chosen random pages from random books, edited them to the same format as *The Design of Everyday Things*, 3rd edition, then mocked up a copy and exchanged it

for mine. I might even have believed such a possibility, had my pencil annotations on some of the pages not still been there, referring to the original text as if it was still present.

I no longer have the book – I handed it in to the police like the owner of the dictionary did. A few days later, I got a thank-you from the CIA (which was a surprise, I was expecting the FBI) that said they were investigating several unusual events of this nature. I've heard nothing since.

Weird enough for you?

Matt

Notes

The children's dictionary was changed the same day – probably the same moment – that Prof. Clive Phillips' Proto-Indo European dictionary was updated.

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Matter 15

Summary

Experiment VA1

Account by:	David Scott, 55. Independent researcher.
Source:	Experiment logbook.
Location:	Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, England.
Event:	3 Apr 2024.
Report:	5 Apr 2024.

Report

HEADER

Title: VAN ALST ANTIQUITY
Experiment: VA1
Date: 3 Apr 2024
Experimenter: David Scott

ENVIRONMENT

Location: Roecliffe Lane
Temperature: 21°C
Pressure: 976 hPa

Humidity: 99%

CONTEXT

Objectives:

Establish whether the Van Alst antiquity possesses metaphysical properties.

Background:

The Van Alst antiquity is a bowl of beaten gold that is without impurities.

The bowl weighs 1,789.25g. Its height varies depending on where the measurement is taken, but averages about 4cm. The diameter of the base/umbo is similarly inconsistent but averages about 2.6cm. In remarkable contrast, the rim of the bowl is a perfect circle 160mm in diameter. The thickness of the bowl at the rim is unchanging at approx. 4.5mm; elsewhere, it is in places as thin as 2mm, depending on how heavily the gold has been beaten. The bowl's capacity is 580ml.

Based on the known dimensions of the MIT cube, the Bhéwonomese unit of length (henceforth Bul) equates to 1.12267 metres. To the nearest millimetre (which is as accurately as I can measure it), the diameter of the bowl is one seventh of this amount.

The density of gold at room temperature is 19.32g/cm^3 . 1,789.25g of gold therefore occupies 92.61cm^3 . A cube of this volume would have sides 4.52cm in length; a sphere would have a diameter of 5.61cm. Allowing for rounding

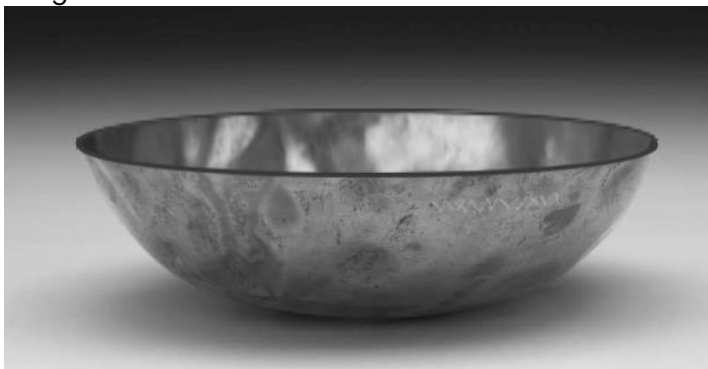
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errors, the latter is one twentieth of a Bul. It seems, then, that the bowl was created from a circular sheet of gold one seventh of a Bul in diameter, which in turn was created from a sphere one twentieth of a Bul in diameter.

On the outside of the bowl, 1.1cm below the rim, are debossed the Bhéwonomese numerals X/ \ X/ \ / \ / \ / X \ \; these translate to 60734150 in Arabic numerals. They have the appearance of handwriting but do not seem to have been scratched into the gold; rather, they look debossed.

The bowl contains no residue.

Diagram:



Hypothesis:

The bowl is a Bhéwonomese artefact. Either it has properties as a bowl or it had properties as a circular sheet. The numerals indicate that it was used by a native of Dheghôm rather than by one of Bhéwonom.

PLANNED PROCEDURE**Equipment/Materials:**

- Van Alst antiquity (bowl)
- Control bowl made of plastic
- Disposable wooden spoons
- Distilled water
- Rainwater
- Saltwater
- Carbonated water
- Cow's milk
- Goat's milk
- Sheep's milk
- Weak alcohol (beer)
- Strong alcohol (brandy)

Variables:

- Contents of bowls
- Temperature of liquids

Set-Up:

- Place both bowls in sink
- Warm bowls to required temperature $\pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$ using hot water.

Method:

- Observe the effects of placing within the bowls a range of liquids available to the Yamnaya people, excluding human bodily fluids. After undertaking this with the bowls and liquid at room temperature, repeat with all at 50°C .

Steps:

- Start video recording
- Pour liquid into bowls
- Note immediate changes

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Manipulate bowls
Leave for 60 minutes
Note gradual changes
Manipulate bowls
Note immediate changes
Stir liquid with a disposable wooden spoon
Note immediate changes
Empty bowls
End video recording
Clean bowls with distilled water
Dry bowls with linen cloth
Dispose of disposable wooden spoon

ACTUAL PROCEDURE

Stage: VA1.1
Time/Date: 0900 Wed 3 Apr 2024
Variable: Distilled water 21°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.2
Time/Date: 1010 Wed 3 Apr 2024
Variable: Rainwater 21°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.3
Time/Date: 1120 Wed 3 Apr 2024
Variable: Saltwater 21°C
Observations:

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VA1

Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.4
Time/Date: 1230 Wed 3 Apr 2024
Variable: Carbonated water 21°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.5
Time/Date: 1400 Wed 3 Apr 2024
Variable: Cow's milk 21°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.6
Time/Date: 1520 Wed 3 Apr 2024
Variable: Goat's milk 21°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.7
Time/Date: 1630 Wed 3 Apr 2024
Variable: Sheep's milk 21°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.8
Time/Date: 1745 Wed 3 Apr 2024
Variable: Weak alcohol 21°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

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Stage: VA1.9
Time/Date: 1900 Wed 3 Apr 2024
Variable: Strong alcohol 21°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.10
Time/Date: 0900 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Distilled water 50°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.11
Time/Date: 1015 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Rainwater 50°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.12
Time/Date: 1125 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Saltwater 50°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.13
Time/Date: 1240 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Carbonated water 50°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

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VA1

Stage: VA1.14
Time/Date: 1400 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Cow's milk 50°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.15
Time/Date: 1525 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Goat's milk 50°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.16
Time/Date: 1645 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Sheep's milk 50°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.17
Time/Date: 1755 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Weak alcohol 50°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.18
Time/Date: 1910 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Strong alcohol 50°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

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In the course of the experiment, it was realised that the Yamnaya people would have access to fruit and vegetable juices. Sufficient samples of two of these were to hand, so they were incorporated into the experiment:

Lemon juice

Grape juice

Stage: VA1.19
Time/Date: 2030 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Lemon juice 21°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.20
Time/Date: 2140 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Grape juice 21°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.21
Time/Date: 2255 Thu 4 Apr 2024
Variable: Lemon juice 50°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.22
Time/Date: 0000 Fri 5 Apr 2024
Variable: Grape juice 50°C
Observations:

Nothing of note.

In the course of the extension to the experiment, it was realised that the Yamnaya people would also have access to other edible liquids. One of these was to hand, so was also incorporated into the experiment:

Honey

Stage: VA1.23
Time/Date: 0115 Fri 5 Apr 2024
Variable: Honey
Observations:
Nothing of note.

Stage: VA1.24
Time/Date: 0225 Fri 5 Apr 2024
Variable: Honey 50°C
Observations:
Nothing of note.

SUMMARY

Results:

At no stage did the behaviour of the Van Alst bowl differ from that of the control bowl.

Analysis:

-

Discussion:

The bowl does not appear to display any unusual properties when filled with any of the liquids tried, whether at either room

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temperature or at 50°C. There remains the possibility that the liquid needs to be boiled. It may also be that a mixture of liquids would initiate an effect, particularly if they react chemically (such as milk and lemon juice).

While it is possible to repeat this experiment drawing from an ever-growing list of liquids that were available in the region north of the Caucasus mountains four millennia ago, the presence of a personal identification number on the side of the bowl suggests that if a liquid is required then it may be a bodily fluid originating with the individual whose number is so stated.

The only bodily fluids that can be produced in quantity by a living human being are urine, breast milk, blood and perhaps saliva. If only a small amount is needed then sweat, tears, semen and nasal fluids are also candidates. Additional fluids, such as gastric juices, can be extracted from the recently-deceased.

Sadly, person #60734150 is no longer with us. It may, however, be possible to change the number on the side of the bowl to that of a currently-living human being. I only know the numbers of two people: myself (99936412833) and Melanie (100060533018). Because I am reluctant to ask my wife to produce two pints of blood at short notice (one for the Van Alst bowl,

one for the control bowl), I would be the better choice of subject.

Conclusion:

A second experiment, VA2, is necessary. It is to begin with the alteration of the number on the Van Alst antiquity to 99936412833 and then to proceed in the same manner as the concluding experiment, VA1. If, as expected, nothing of note is observed, a third experiment, VA3, will commence using bodily fluids.

Notes

It seems likely that dirt would have collected over time in the debossed (that is, sunken) numerals. If so, it had been well-meaningly removed before the antiquity came into my possession.